

YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

Title: Complaints and Grievances Next Annual Review Date: 10/10/2015	Type: D. Community Based Services Sub Type: 10. Supervision Number: D.10.21
	Page 1 of 3
References: La. Revised Statue 15:574.12, La. Children's Code Art. 412, ACA Standards O-3C-01, Administration of Correctional Agencies, 2-7174 (Juvenile Probation and Aftercare Services); YS Policy Nos. A1.4 "Investigative Services", A.1.9 "Public Records Management", C.2.11 "Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), C.4.3 "Mandatory Reporting of Abuse and Neglect of Youth"	
STATUS: Approved	
Approved By: <i>Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary</i>	Date of Approval: 10/10/2014

I. AUTHORITY:

Deputy Secretary of Youth Services (YS) as contained in La. R.S. 36:405. Deviation from this policy must be approved by the Deputy Secretary.

II. PURPOSE:

To establish a formal grievance process through which a youth may seek resolution of a complaint relating to his stay in a facility or under YS supervision.

III. APPLICABILITY:

Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Undersecretary, Chief of Operations, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Regional Directors, and Regional Managers.

Regional Managers are responsible for ensuring all necessary procedures are in place to comply with this policy.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

Grievance - A formal complaint regarding a condition, circumstance or action considered by the grievant to be unjust.

V. POLICY:

It is the Deputy Secretary's policy to afford youth under the supervision of or in the custody of YS the right to grieve any inappropriate or infringing conditions, behavior or action of staff, volunteers or other youth.

Youth who choose to file a formal grievance shall not be subject to any disciplinary sanction or adverse action pertaining to the filing of a grievance.

It shall be the responsibility of the Regional Manager to provide appropriate assistance/accommodations for youth with literacy deficiencies or language barriers.

Grievances shall be treated as confidential information and only shared with staff on a need-to-know basis.

VI. PROCEDURES:

- A. At the time of the initial interview, the youth and their parent/guardian shall be informed of the YS grievance process. The "Youth Grievance Procedure" form located in JETS [see Attachment D.10.21 (a)] shall be read and explained to the youth and parent/guardian. The form shall be signed, dated and filed in Section 4 of the case record (refer to YS Policy No. D.5.1) as evidence of the notification of the grievance procedure. The youth shall be provided with a "YS Grievance Form" located in JETS [see Attachment D.10.21 (b)].
- B. All grievances must be in writing and sent to the Regional Manager. If a complaint is received via telephone, the staff receiving the call shall document on the "YS Grievance Form" the nature of the complaint made by the youth or parent/guardian.
 - 1. If, at any time, the issue involves sexual misconduct as defined in *YS Policy No. C.2.11 "Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)"*, the grievance must be forwarded immediately to the Regional Manager.
 - 2. CBS staff shall respond promptly to any complaint received alleging abuse of a youth within one of the Agency's secure youth facilities pursuant to *YS Policy No. A.1.4 "Investigative Services" Section VI. A. 1.*
 - 3. If a youth attempts to report abuse or neglect via the grievance process, refer to *YS Policy No. C.4.3 "Mandatory Reporting of Abuse and Neglect of Youth"* for procedures.
 - 4. Youth in secure care should be encouraged to use the Administrative Remedy Procedure for complaints related to their stay in secure care. (Refer to YS Policy No. B.5.3)

C. STEP ONE

- 1. Upon receipt of a grievance, the Regional Manager shall review the complaint and, if appropriate, make inquiries. If it is found that there is a basis for the complaint, the Regional Manager shall take corrective action.

2. If it is found that there is no basis to the complaint or that it is beyond the control of OJJ, he/she shall so advise the grievant. All grievances shall be responded to promptly, accurately and thoroughly.
3. Regional Managers shall track the grievances received using the "CBS Grievance Tracking Log" [see Attachment D.10.21 (c)]. The tracking log shall be maintained in the regional office where the grievance is filed. The grievant name, JETS Client ID number, the date of receipt, the date of the reply or action, and other data determined to be useful shall be tagged.
4. The Regional Manager shall respond within twenty-one (21) calendar days of receipt of the grievance. If unable to respond within this time limit, he/she shall so advise the grievant and provide a tentative date to expect a response.

Complaints should be dealt with at the lowest organizational level possible with the authority to resolve the issue. If the Regional Manager believes that the complaint is beyond his purview to correct, he shall forward it to the appropriate Regional Director for resolution.

5. Each complaint and response shall be documented in a JETS narrative. Documentation shall include the date the complaint was received, the person making the complaint, what was discussed, the name of the staff who received the complaint, and a summary of the discussion and resolution.

D. STEP TWO - APPEAL

1. If a grievant is dissatisfied with the Step One decision/response by the Regional Manager, he/she has ten (10) days to appeal the grievance to the appropriate Regional Director. The Regional Director shall respond within twenty-one (21) calendar days of his/her receipt of the appeal. The Regional Director's response shall be documented in a JETS narrative by the Regional Director or designee. The decision of the Regional Director is final.
2. Copies of grievances and responses by the Regional Director shall be sent to the Assistant Secretary for his review and/or information.

Previous Regulation/Policy Number: DYS No. 10.21

Previous Effective Date: 04/24/1998



Attachments/References: [D.10.21 \(a\) Grievance Form.pdf](#) [D.10.21 \(b\) Grievance Policy Receipt.pdf](#)



[D.10.21 \(c\) Grievance Log 1014.docx](#)